

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /003 W

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O 121435Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9398

UNCLAS ROME 13116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES (MANISCALCO, JOSEPH)

SUBJECT: DEATH CASE: JOSEPH MANISCALCO

REF: STATE 197944

1. CONGRESSMAN BEARD INTERESTED.
2. REMAINS ARE BEING SHIPPED ON TWA FLIGHT 841 LEAVING ROME 13:15 AUGUST 13 AND ARRIVING NEW YORK AT 16:30. WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO FLIGHT DL 735 LEAVING AUGUST 14 AT 8:30 AND ARRIVING MEMPHIS 13:08
3. DURING PAST WEEK EMBASSY HAS REPEATEDLY PRESSED UNDERTAKERS TO EXPEDITE SHIPMENT, HAVING PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FROM THEM CONFIRMATION THAT REMAINS HAD BEEN EMBALMED IMMEDIATELY AFTER POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION WAS PERFORMED ON AUGUST 3. FINALLY, YESTERDAY, AFTER CONSUL GENERAL THREATENED POLICE ACTION, HEAD OF FIRM ADMITTED THAT WRONG BODY HAD BEEN EMBALMED AND THAT BY TIME MISTAKE WAS DISCOVERED SUBJECT'S REMAINS HAD DECOMPOSED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT SHIPMENT COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL TIME CONSUMING AMELIORATIVE MEASURES COULD BE COMPLETED. BODY IN ANY EVENT NOT, REPEAT NOT, SUITABLE FOR VIEWING.
4. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED SUBJECT'S SON, FRANK MARASCALCO, OF MISTAKE AND OF PROPOSED SHIPMENT REMAINS NOT LATER THAN SATURDAY AUGUST 14, WE HAVE, INCIDENTALLY, SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES THIS WEEK TO SON AND ARE INFORMING HIM BY TELEPHONE OF FLIGHT ARRIVAL TIME.

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5. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WIDOW SELECTED UNDERTAKERS WITHOUT CONSULTING EMBASSY, WHICH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF A US CITIZEN FROM LOCAL POLICE. FIRM IS NOT REPEAT NOT ONE OF THE UNDERTAKERS RECOMMENDED BY EMBASSY.VOLPE

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